

intellectually. Feeling welcomed by a person and cultures that you do not even know (buddies, university and other exchangers) becomes a motivation and a certainty that the opportunity for an exchange is really odd.

Final Considerations. Academic Mobility is a great opportunity to exchange information, beliefs, cultures, knowledge and above all, translates into personal and professional growth.

However, the experience of living in another country allows to know different and specific habits, opens new perspectives, and helps overcome difficulties, because the exchange student needs to adapt to the new social environment, face challenges and grow mainly in emotional strengthening. The distance from the effective ties of origin is related to vulnerability and the decision-making process.

It is necessary to be prepared, because the initiative requires a lot of patience, altruism and the ability to circumvent eventual unforeseen events; distance from family and friends, cultural variations, climate, habits and values. However, the exchange is a unique experience, mainly for the receptivity, admiration, and quality of teaching, cultures, stories and magnificent places to expand knowledge.

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## **POLITICS OF EDUCATION IN SYRIA: AN OVERVIEW**

## **ПОЛИТИКА ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ В СИРИИ: ОБЗОР**

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**Abstract:** this paper provides an insight to the educational system in Syria, the politics that shape the phases of educational process and the main characteristics of Syrian hierarchical structure of education.

**Keywords:** education, system of education, Syria, schools, universities.

**Абстракт:** В статье рассматриваются особенности системы образования в Сирии, политики, формирующей этапы учебного

процесса и основные характеристики иерархической структуры сирийского образования.

**Ключевые слова:** система образования в Сирии, школы, университеты

### Introduction.

Syria is a republic that is situated in western Asia, borders the Mediterranean Sea and Lebanon to the west, Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south, and Palestine to the southwest. The Syrian Republic is divided into 14 cities by area with 185,180 square kilometres, with an estimated population of 22 million [16].

Syria's capital is Damascus, which was founded in the 3rd millennium B.C and considered the oldest inhabited city in the world [17]. Other ancient cities are considered major including Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Homs. The population of the very republic is diverse and made of the three major monotheistic religions and a variety of ethnicities including Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Circassians, Mandeans, Arabs and Turks.

The official spoken language is Arabic, with particular dialects for each and every city. Other languages are used within certain regions and communities; the Russian language, Armenian, Turkish, Kurdish, and in addition to the ancient sematic languages of Arabic, Hebrew, Aramaic and Syriac.

Syria's strategic and central position on the map of the world gives it a long and rich history of rotation of civilizations and colonizers. However, Syria was officially independent in 1946 after she gained independence from the French mandate.

With the famous coup d'état in 1961, the secular and socialist members of Baath party took power in 1963. Since then, Syria witnessed a rise and development on large and different scales, levels and spheres including Education [2].

The previous governments of Syria and the current one play an essential role in monitoring the process, basics and principles of education. The major body of such supervision is embodied in the Syrian Ministry of Education and Syrian Ministry of Higher Education, which fully oversee the primary, secondary and higher education, private and public alike.

### Primary and Secondary Education in Syria.

As I mentioned above in my introduction, the education in Syria is governed by the Syrian Ministry of Education, noting that education is compulsory until the age of fifteen. All Syrian schools; private, public and United Nations schools [13], primary and secondary schools alike, are directly under the responsibility of Syria's Ministry of Education,

in terms of curriculum and the learning/teaching materials. The language of Education in Syrian schools is Arabic, in addition to teaching in French, English and Russian. Notably, the process of education in Syria is totally free of charge in the primary and secondary public schools.

Since 2002, the twin phases of education, presented in primary and secondary, have been merged into one body, and concludes with a centrally final national exam. Upon successfully finishing exam, pupils are awarded the certificate of «Basic Education». Depending on the grades and results of in the final national exam, pupils have the choice to either pursue «Vocational Secondary Education» or «General Secondary Education» [11].

In the first case of vocational secondary education, it is embodied in technical schools, which are categorized further into a several specialisations such as trade, agriculture and industry. In the final process of study in the vocational secondary education, pupils are awarded with a technical / vocational secondary education certificate, depending on the subject field; trade diploma, agriculture diploma and industry diploma. In the second case of general secondary education, pupils study for 3 years (usually from fifteen until eighteen). The first year is considered as a preparatory, in which after pupils have the opportunity to study in the fields of either humanities and arts or sciences. Consequently and upon graduation, pupils need to go through a final exam known as «Baccalaureate».

Now, in the phase of post-secondary education, and upon a full and successful vocational secondary education, students have the choice to officially work or apply to technical or intermediate institutes. Such institutes in Syria offer programmes that have a focus in industry, agriculture, technology, administration, economics, business, tourism, transport or preparing teachers etc. These fields of study usually end with provided a certificate known as «certificate of associate degree» or «certificate of licensed assistant».

In terms of admission to higher education in Syria, the process varies respectively. On one hand, intermediate institutes connected to a university often demand certificates of either general secondary education or a technical secondary education, with a high score. On the other hand, there are those intermediate institutes that allow students with low scores to continue their studies normally. However, in the process of admission to higher education in Syria, students who finish their final exam (Baccalaureate) can – in principle – apply to universities and institutes, public and private similarly. One crucial matter concerning application to higher education is that students who have taken the science field at school can naturally apply for admission to any study programme offered within higher education, but students who had

the humanities field can only apply for programmes in literature, art, humanities, economics and law.

#### Higher Education in Syria.

Currently in Syria, universities are divided into two: Public and Private. There are 8 public universities and more than 20 private ones, including higher institutes. Founded in 1903, Damascus University is considered the oldest and most prestigious university in Syria. Similar to Primary and Secondary Education, public universities in Syria are free of charge, supported and supervised by the state and Ministry of Education. In Public universities, Arabic is mostly the language of instruction, except in some cases when studying foreign literature, English, French and other languages are the official languages of instruction. In public universities, the offered programs are ranged from bachelor to master's and PhD. In case of bachelor degree, it's usually 4 academic years for humanities, 5 to 6 years for scientific fields. Master's is 2 years, while PhD may range from 4 to 5 years.

Concerning private universities, they have been established in Syria since 2001 by a presidential legislation. Private universities must be recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education before they initiate any process of education. Unlike public universities, education in private universities is not free of charge, but high tuition fees are charged, as the education is provided in English as well as in Arabic.

Apart from public and private universities, higher institutes are regarded as «centres of excellence», and are directly supervised by public universities or the Ministry of Higher Education. In order to be accepted in one of Syria's higher institutes, students are required to have the top high scores across all Syria, and such students are called the «elites» or «the special ones».

Higher institutes offer degree programmes at the bachelor's, master's and PhD level. The number of students attending these institutes is relatively low, and that is related to obtaining a total excellence rate in grades and marks.

In general, the assessment system [see 3] in higher education ranges from:

- Fail: 0–49 for undergraduate studies / 0–59 for graduate studies.
- Pass: 50–59 for undergraduate studies / 60–64 for graduate studies.
- Good: 60–69% for undergraduate studies / 65–74% for graduate studies.
- Very good: 70–79% for undergraduate studies / 75–84% for graduate studies.
- Excellent: 80–89% for undergraduate studies / 85–94% for graduate studies.
- Honours: 90–100% for undergraduate studies / 95–100% for graduate studies.

In conclusion, and in the end of higher education, the Syrian students are awarded a diploma or declaration of graduation and a degree transcript for their marks and final total in Arabic plus a verified, authorized and sworn translation in English or French. As for the general secondary education, the assesment system is much like the higher education, except the honours level, as list of subjects and marks are issued in Arabic, with a possibility to be provided with a sworn translation into French, English or any other language.

List of Recognized Public and Private Universities and Higher Institutes in Syria

Public:

- Damascus University.
- Aleppo University.
- Latakia University (Tishreen University).
- Tartous University.
- Homs University (Baath University).
- Hama University.
- Furat University.
- Syrian Virtual University.

Private:

- Manara University.
- Cordoba University.
- Kalamoon University.
- Itihad Private University.
- International University for Science and Technology.
- Syrian Private University.
- Al-Andalus University for Medical Sciences.
- Al-Sham Private University.
- Al-Jazeera University.
- Al-Wataniya Private University.
- Al-Rasheed International University for Science & Technology.
- Hawash Private University.
- Wadi International University.
- Ebla Private University.
- Shahba Private University.
- Yarmouk Private University.
- Arab University for Science and Technology.
- Arab International University.
- Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport.

– Qasioun University for Science and Technology.

Higher Institutes:

- Higher Institute of Business Administration.
- The National Institute of Public Administration.

- Higher Institute for Demographic Studies & Researches.
- Higher Institute for Water Management.
- Higher Institute for Research into Lasers and their Applications.
- Higher Institute of Earthquake Studies and Research.
- Higher Institute for Administrative Development.
- Higher Institute for Translation and Interpretation.
- Damascus University Higher Language Institute.
- Sham Higher Institute for Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language and Islamic Studies.
- Higher Institute for the History of Arabic Science.
- Higher Institute of Languages (Aleppo).
- Higher Institute for Sea Research.
- Higher Institute for Environmental Research.
- Higher Institute of Languages (Latakia).
- Higher Institute of Languages (Homs).

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**THE DUAL SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
OF INDONESIA (HEIS) AND THE STRUCTURAL SYSTEM  
OF BAN-PT**

**ДВОЙНАЯ СИСТЕМА ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ  
ИНДОНЕЗИИ И СТРУКТУРНАЯ СИСТЕМА БАН-ПТ**

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**Abstract:** this article analyzes the dual-system of higher education in Indonesia and the structural system of BAN-PT.

**Keywords:** higher education in Indonesia, dual-system in education, BAN-PT, research and applied training.